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[REDACTED] 25X1

Middle East Situation Report #10
(as of 1100 EST, 9 January 1984)

LEBANON/SYRIA

[REDACTED] 25X1

The Foreign Ministers of Lebanon, Syria, and Saudi Arabia met again today in Riyadh but failed to finalize agreement on the security plan for disengagement of warring factions in Lebanon.

[REDACTED] 25X1

Ambassador Bartholomew is meeting at this hour with Druze leader Walid Junblatt in an effort to pin him down on eleventh hour issues raised by Junblatt that could stall the implementation of the security plan. [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED] 25X1
- Despite Junblatt's fairly predictable public statements criticizing the security plan, a telephone conversation between Junblatt and Ambassador Paganelli last Saturday in Damascus suggests that Junblatt's problems with it are not insurmountable. His major blasts are still aimed at the Maronite dominated government and his insistence that Gemayel come forward with political concessions before reconciliation talks can begin. [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] 25X1

Chances for the implementation of the security plan were given a boost yesterday when it received public endorsement by Amal leader Nabih Barri and members of the National Salvation Front. According to the US Embassy in Tel Aviv, Israeli Foreign Ministry officials believe the plan could go into effect as early as 11 January. [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED] 25X1
- Implementation of the plan would give the central government a breathing space, but by itself will not necessarily open the way for reconciliation talks. [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] 25X1

Israel today publicly denied earlier rumors that it had decided to withdraw its troops from the Awwali River to the Zahrani. [REDACTED] Israeli fortifications along the Awwali continue to improve and there seems to be an increased troop presence there. These first-hand observations during a recent road recon of the area point to a long-term IDF stay. [REDACTED] 25X1

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PERSIAN GULF

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According to US diplomats, security at ARAMCO's main facility at Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, has been substantially enhanced, with special emphasis on checking persons and vehicles entering the compound. Ranking officials there are particularly disturbed over the recent theft of many windshield decals used for ID purposes. [REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED] two groups of Iraqi dissidents are planning terrorist attacks, probably in France or Greece, against persons and facilities of the US, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Kuwait, or Iraq. Our Embassy in Jidda cannot confirm any details in this report but notes that Saudi alarums are again on the rise. [REDACTED]

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-- We note that the Iraqis reportedly had advance warning of terrorist attacks launched by Iraqi dissidents in Turkey and Kuwait over the past month. As a result, we place more credence in this report than in many of the others received in the aftermath of the Kuwaiti bombings. [REDACTED]

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NESA M#84-10014CX

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